(45)

THE

CASE

OF THE

Maſter, Wardens, Aſſiſtants, and Commonalty of the Company of Diſtillers;

Humbly offered to the Conſideration of the Honourable the HOUSE *of* COMMONS.

THE making of Brandy from Corn, Cyder, Perry, Molaſſes, and Sugar, (which the War with *France*, after the Revolution, threw us upon, by prohibiting *French* Brandy) hath been a great Advantage to the Landed Intereſt of *Great-Britain*, and alſo our Colonies abroad; for by Computation, there has been almoſt One Hundred Thouſand Acres of Land broke up, and made uſe of in growing of Corn for this Manufactory.

By Virtue of an Act of Parliament paſſed in the Second Year of his preſent Majeſty's Reign, intitled, *An Act for laying a Duty upon Compound Waters or Spirits, and for licenſing the Retailers thereof*, there was a Duty of Five Shillings per Gallon laid upon all Compound Waters; which was an abſolute Prohibition of the ſame. This, and the Running of *French* Brandies, and importing them on a very eaſy Duty, (cauſed by bringing them into *Flemiſh* Ports) have laid the ſaid Trade under very great Diſcouragement, which, if not remedied, muſt ruin a Manufactory as uſeful to the Publick as any, except the Woollen.

The Brandies which the Diſtillers draw from Corn, Molaſſes and Sugars, are entirely vended at Home, there being no Encouragement to ſend them Abroad, whereas if there was, we ſhould be more capable of ſerving Foreign Markets with our Brandy, than any Nation beſides.

The *Dutch* now ſerve with Corn-Brandy (the Produce of our own Country) all *Germany*, the *Baltick*, and even our own Ships which go to *Africa*; which Advantage they have, becauſe there is no Duty on Malt exported, and a Duty of 4 *s. per* Quarter upon what the Diſtillers uſe here: Beſides all this, the Bounty Money which they receive on the Exportation of Corn, gives them a further Profit of 4 *s.* 1 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$, which all together amounts to 8 *s.* 1 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *per* Quarter; whereas if we had a Drawback equal with them, and were put on the ſame Foot, we ſhould have the Manufacturing of that which they now receive ſo much Benefit from.

The Diſtillers humbly hope every Encouragement may be given by this Honourable Houſe, which manifeſtly makes for the Intereſt of the Nation, eſpecially in ſuch Caſes, where no ill Effect can follow; they therefore humbly beg, that if putting the Trade on the old Foundation relating to *Ordinary Compounds*, be thought unreaſonable, they may be allowed the Privilege of making *Cherry* and *Rasberry Brandy*, (becauſe the Materials are the Growth of our Country) and alſo rich Cordials chiefly made uſe of in private Families, and are not liable to the Complaint againſt other Liquors, of being abuſed, to the Prejudice of the People.

All which is humbly Submitted to the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe.

THE

CASE

OF THE

Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Commonalty of the Company of Distillers;

Humbly offered to the Consideration of the Hon. House *of* Commons.